



Village Partners International
partnering to help people help themselves

DECEMBER 2015

OUR MISSION:

VILLAGE PARTNERS INTERNATIONAL STRIVES TO DEVELOP AND ENHANCE COMMUNITIES WITH PROFOUND NEED. THROUGH PARTNERSHIP, WE SEEK TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MEDICAL, EDUCATIONAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES. WE ARE COMMITTED TO MAKING THE WORLD A STRONGER COMMUNITY, ONE VILLAGE AT A TIME.

"Our first task in approaching another people, another culture, another religion, is to take off our shoes, for the place we are approaching is holy. Else we might find ourselves treading on another's dream. More serious still we may forget that God was there before our arrival."

anonymous

CHRISTMAS IN AFRICA



Christmas in Africa is a way to give a gift of life to the poorest in the village of Papoli, Uganda, in honor of another.

To purchase a gift, simply go to www.villagepartnersinternational.org and select **Christmas In Africa**.

Christmas In Africa Gifts . . .

- * Contribution towards a brick making machine
- * Self sustaining poultry project for school
- * Contribution for staff houses
- * Women, orphan and elder's home
- * Furnishings for a widow's house
- * Wrap cloth for widows
- * Moringa trees
- * Citrus and avocado seedlings
- * Forest trees
- * School books and supplies
- * Bicycle
- * Toys and sports equipment
- * Clothing for newborns and children
- * Chickens
- * Goats
- * Sheep
- * Feed a sick child at the clinic
- * Support and medications for the clinic



The Same Moon

I am riding a bicycle on a rugged Ugandan road, avoiding the ditches and the patches of mud left from last night's rain. Unlike the summer months of hunger, it is the rainy season here in Papoli – a time of food— and mosquitoes.

"In Uganda, we say we are all carriers of malaria," my friend told me. "Everyone gets malaria." "Really?" I asked, "How many times have you had it?"

"I get it at least three times a year. Every time I get it, it is worse than the time before. Children are especially susceptible and when the children have worms, it is much easier for them to contract malaria because their resistance is down, and this is a problem in the schools and village. We want to help the sick, of course, but we cannot afford to give them medicine for free, so many who cannot afford to pay, go untreated."

"That must be very hard for you," I sighed, "To have to say 'No' when your heart wants to help."

With every turn the bike makes on the road, I leave behind the faint sounds of sheep bleating and children calling "Muzungu!" This means "white person," or "traveler" and I like the sound of my new name. There are grey clouds building up in the south from the horizon forcing a sudden, strong wind. I pass a woman wearing a brightly colored gomesi, "How ARE you?" she calls. "Yoga," I respond, "Berre." I am well. I smile and watch small children, eight to ten years old, filling plastic jugs with water from the new bore hole, a donation from the congregation of Palma Ceia Church. Earlier today, when I was away from the village center, I saw an 83 year old woman fill a five gallon jug from a muddy ditch. Although she could barely drag it up the incline to the grassy road, with some help she placed the heavy burden on her head. "Oh, my" I mumbled, thinking how heavy it must be and noticing her frail body. She slowly straightened, and walked off as if it was no weight at all.

"The day they brought my grandmother's body home, the monkeys started showing up. By the time we buried her two days later, there were monkeys everywhere. We knew they were grieving, too. Her grave is there," my Ugandan niece pointed, "outside your window," I spotted the plain, flat grave covered by an unmarked stone. I could see it from where I slept. That night, I heard the grandmothers in the next room singing. Grandmothers are very important people in Uganda and these two were visiting. When I asked what their words meant, they answered "We are singing praise to God."

I am a muzungu, a visitor. I live in the U.S. "Yes, we have chickens. We have rain. We have towns, not villages and yes, same moon." My short respect and love for the to make changes for the beyond. In the words of PACODEF Community is falling down, others



when it is dark, we look up at the time in Papoli left me with a deep people of this village and their ability betterment of their community and one of the staff members of the Development Foundation, "When one are there to lift him up. "

VPI partners with the Papoli Community Foundation known as PACODEF to bring medical supplies and clean water to the villagers in the surrounding communities. Together, we hope to supply fresh drinking water throughout the area and to contain malaria, especially among children and the elderly. Thank you for your support. www.villagepartnersinternational.org



VPI supports successful Moringa projects in both Haiti and Uganda. Moringa is called “The Tree of Life” because of its many beneficial properties. When leaves are dried and added to a simple meal, it increases the nutritional value of food and provides vitamins and minerals that help combat malnutrition.



Tampa Area Hosts Two Successful Fundraisers

This fall, thanks to the hard work and dedication of many volunteers, VPI helped to raise awareness and funds while having a good time in two separate fundraising events. The first, “KIDS HELPING KIDS” was a fun day with activities centered on helping children from Tampa understand that some children in other parts of the world don’t have easy access to clean water, basic medical supplies and nutritional food. Dr. Sylvia Campbell, founder of VPI, believes that it is never too early to begin teaching children about their role in the local and global community and from this belief came the event focused on children. The second fundraiser was a lovely evening for adults themed “UNDER THE SAME STARS” with live entertainment, food, and a live and silent auction.



“Children in this community have been given so much, it’s part of our responsibility as adults to instill in them the desire to help others and to understand that with privilege comes responsibility to others.”

Sylvia Campbell, MD